

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed to cite the patent issuing from the parent application.

V. Rejection

Claims 23-41 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,422,562 ("Mammano"). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner's rejection is peculiar, since the present application presents method claims with limitations are similar to those in the apparatus claims the Examiner found allowable over the same reference in the parent application.

As discussed on page 1 of Applicants' specification, in a conventional switching regulator, the feedback controller continuously monitors an electrical characteristic of the circuit, such as the output voltage. Such a feedback controller uses the continuously measured electrical characteristic to continuously generate a control signal for the pulse modulator. In contrast, claim 23 calls for a capturing a measurement of an electrical characteristic of the voltage regulator at a discrete moment of time with a sampling circuit. The measurement is received by a feedback circuit and used to control the power switch.

Mammano teaches a control circuit that functions in parallel with the regulator to compensate for sudden changes in the load. However, Mammano does not teach anything similar to a sampling circuit that makes a measurement at a discrete moment of time, and captures that measurement for use by the feedback circuit. Rather, Mammano teaches conventional continuous monitoring. Therefore, claim 23, and the claims depending therefrom, should be allowable.

In addition, Mammano fails to teach measuring the current passing through the filter as recited by claim 26, opening and closing sampling switches as recited by claims 27, 32, 40 and 41, using the average of measurements made at different times to control the power switch as recited by claim 31, using switched-capacitor circuits to convert the measurement into a charge as recited by claim 36, or using an analog-to-digital to convert the measurement into a digital signal as recited by claim 37.

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Page : 3

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Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Filed herewith is a Petition for Automatic Extension with the required fee.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/19/00

  
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